

**Testimony of the Office of the Public Defender, State of Hawaii,
to the House Committee on Judiciary**

March 29, 2012

S.B. No. 2486 SD1: RELATING TO THE PENAL CODE

Chair Keith-Agaran and Members of the Committee:

We question whether there is a need for the changes proposed in S.B. No. 2486 SD1. H.R.S. § 707-715 already outlaws, under the terroristic threatening law, a person threatening, by word or conduct, to cause bodily injury to another person or serious damage to property of another. Property would presumably cover a person's pet or other live animal. Therefore, we believe the situation sought to be addressed by this bill is already covered by the current statute.

Thank for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



Hawaiian Humane Society
People for animals. Animals for people.

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To: Honorable Chair Gil Keith-Agaran
Vice-Chair Karl Rhoads and Committee Members

House Committee on Judiciary
March 29, 2012, 2:00 pm, Room 325

Submitted by: Natalie Lukashevsky, Community Outreach Coordinator
Hawaiian Humane Society, nlukashevsky@hawaiianhumane.org

Date: March 28, 2012

RE: **Support SB 2486, SD1;**
Relating to the Penal Code: Terroristic Threatening

Dear Honorable Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair Rhoads and Committee Members,

The Hawaiian Humane Society supports this bill to extend the existing penal code for terroristic threatening to pet animals and livestock.

Often times, especially in incidents of domestic violence, abusers threaten/ harm pets as a way of intimidating their partner/ family member. Further, it is statistically proven that people who are abusive toward animals are far more likely to be abusive toward people. We feel that this amendment will better protect pets and livestock by preventing harm or the threat of harm to an animal for the purpose of coercing, intimidating or controlling another person.

Thank you for the opportunity to present to the committee and we respectfully ask for your support of this measure.



THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES

TO: Honorable Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair Rhoads and Committee Members

House Judiciary Committee, 3-2-12, 2pm, Rm 325

RE: SUPPORT for SB2486; Relating to the Penal Code; Terroristic Threatening Orders

Submitted by: Inga Gibson, Hawaii State Director, The Humane Society of the United States, P.O. Box 89131, Honolulu, HI 96830, igibson@hsus.org, 808-922-9910

We thank the Committee for considering this measure to extend protection to pets and livestock involved in terroristic threatening orders.

Hawaii is one of more than 20 states that allows the inclusion of pets in protective restraining orders. This measure would further extend those protections to farm animals and include threats of violence or harm against an animal, regardless if the animal is a pet or a farm animal.

Animals, like children, are often the victims of abuse in domestic violence and other violent situations. Threats of harm or direct abuse of an animal is a common occurrence when an abuser is attempting to threaten or control a human victim; often a family or household member.

We request your support of this measure in extending these protections to all animals which will in turn better protect human victims, reduce community violence and enhance public safety.